



The Continental Chronicle

Volunteers Take Pride In America On National Public Lands Day

On Saturday, September 18, 2004, about 150 volunteers met at Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP) to celebrate National Public Lands Day (NPLD). This day has become the largest volunteer hands-on effort of its kind in the country. This national event draws volunteers to nearly 600 sites coast to coast in a unique display of commitment. Now in its 11th year, NPLD gives Americans of all ages an opportunity to lend a hand to the very lands they use to hike, climb, swim, explore, picnic, or just plain honor and cherish. This year Valley Forge National Historical Park was one of three parks highlighted by the National Environmental Education Training Foundation which manages NPLD.

At Valley Forge National Historical Park the effort was led by a procession featuring George and Martha Washington, Revolutionary War re-enactors, a fife and drum corps, and camp followers. Barbara Pollarine, Deputy Superintendent, welcomed the volunteers and thanked them for their affection and support. The opening ceremony also included special guest speakers: Joy Pietschmann, National Park Service Service-wide Volunteer Coordinator; Joy M. Oakes, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director for the National Parks Conservation Association; and

Robin Mann, Chair for the PA Chapter Southeastern Group Sierra Club.

Although there were remnants of Hurricane Ivan in the area, volunteers were eager to get to work in the rain.

For the first time, volunteers stepped foot on the historic Waggon seller Farm property recently acquired by the National Park Service and formerly slated for luxury home development by the Toll Brothers. Three years ago, a coalition of area residents, park advocacy and environmental organizations, and school children protested a plan to build homes on this parcel of land within the park's boundary. The Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association led the coalition and were excited to work on the newly acquired land. Volunteers aided the park in the first of many basic preservation projects at the site. Work included removal of vines, weeds and invasive species that were growing against or near historic structures on the property.

Volunteers also helped to:

- Erect plastic deer-proof fencing around 140 young spruce trees to protect them from deer browsing at the one mile long Glen Hardie Tree Screen.
- Remove weeds and invasive species and made fence repairs at the Maxwell's Quarters area.
- Rehabilitate 3 drainage features and conduct trail maintenance by clearing drainage features of debris on a 3/4 - mile segment of Mount Misery Trail.
- Mulch over 30 trees and garden beds at the Welcome Center.
- Mark catalog numbers on over 200 park museum artifacts.

Staff and park volunteers were joined by environmental and conservation organizations such as the Sierra Club,



Volunteers from the Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association were excited to work on the newly acquired Waggon seller Property.

Natural Lands Trust, National Parks Conservation Association, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Leave No Trace, Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Friends of Valley Forge National Historical Park and National Environmental Education Training Foundation who provided educational displays and materials.

The event also included a thank you breakfast and lunch sponsored by the Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association. For the first time, NPLD volunteers received a coupon for a "fee-free" day at any of the participating federal agency sites. In addition, volunteers were given NPLD tee-shirts compliments of Take Pride In America or sweatshirts compliments of Toyota Motor Sales, Inc who have been a national sponsor for six consecutive years.



Volunteers came out in the rain to support Valley Forge National Historical Park in honor of National Public Lands Day.

Message from the Superintendent

The holiday seasons are underway and there is good reason to be thankful for so much and to be joyous for liberties that we share as a people. And because we are a free Nation, we can look optimistically to the future knowing that we have the ability to help shape it and plan for how we will live in it.

The year 2004 has been an ambitious and fruitful year for us at Valley Forge National Historical Park. To an extraordinary extent, our fruitfulness is the result of our cadre of volunteers that have made the difference in every work segment in the park. And for that, the staff and I are very grateful to you all.

You have heard over and over again that this park, as well as every unit of the National Park System, could not achieve its mission without volunteers. Every Superintendent can tell you that. The fear of every Superintendent is for her or his park to not be able to live up to the expectations of our visitors. The joy that every Superintendent shares is the ranks of volunteers that come to the park. You are the factor that allows success. You are the element that guarantees visitor satisfaction. A million thanks to you all.

The year 2004 is also my last year of Federal service. This will be my last message to you. I am looking forward to my retirement at the beginning of 2005 with great anticipation (and with just a bit anxiety). I will miss being with so many interesting, dedicated and thoughtful people. And I will miss being part of the greatest system of natural, cultural, recreational, and historic preserves that exists on our planet. But knowing that volunteers, like each one of you, are willing to step in and lend a hand heartens all of us and assures that the mission will be accomplished.

I wish you good health and good fortunes.
And may God spread blessings upon all of you,
your families and loved ones.

- Arthur L. Stewart



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National Historical Park

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(610) 783-1000

Wayne Rotary Club's Continuing Contribution

Over the past several years the Wayne Rotary Club has donated time, materials, and construction management to Valley Forge National Historical Park in a much appreciated effort to reduce the maintenance backlog on the park's historic buildings and associated features. In 2004, their commitment continued and resulted in the completion of three projects.

As in previous years, Ernest C. Eadeh, a Rotary Club Member, contributed his enthusiasm, organizational talents, and his company's resources toward all three preservation projects. The first project this year was the repair of terrace walls at the site of Maxwell's Quarters. These massive walls, part of an elaborate stone paved terrace that stretches the entire length of the house on the east façade, had received little attention since the Philander Chase Knox family sold the property to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the mid-twentieth century. Mortar joints and rough stucco were crumbling and mold was growing over the face of the nine foot high wall. The entire wall was first power washed under low pressure to remove dirt, loose mortar, moss and mold. Following the cleaning, Jesse O'Hara, Eadeh Enterprises' mason, devoted several days to the careful re-pointing of the wall. Following that, on May 22 and 23, the Penn State College Alumni Association Chapter members applied a coat of masonry paint to the entire wall. Heather Eadeh was the Penn State coordinator for this phase of the work. Mike Roberts, Manager of the Sherwin Williams Paint store in Wayne, PA, provided advice and supplied all the paint for the project.

Ernest Eadeh asked Tim Long, park historical architect, to propose another project for the Wayne Rotary Club. Since park personnel had recently rebuilt the bank retaining wall to the Walker Barn, it seemed that the massive doors and siding, facing Yellow Springs Road would greatly benefit from being painted so that the entire side of the barn was in good condition. Eadeh Enterprises' carpenters and painters began on July 27 to repair the woodwork and prepare it for re-painting. On July 31, members of the Wayne Rotary Club and family members joined Ernest and Heather Eadeh to apply the paint. Eadeh Enterprises' skilled employees, including foreman Kenny McCreary, put the finishing touches on the metal



Rotary Club volunteers paint the Walker Barn on Yellow Springs Road.

hardware and completed the project on August 3.

In September, Ernestine White, the park's trail supervisor, contacted Ernest Eadeh about the prospect of supervising a volunteer crew during National Public Lands Day. Mr. Eadeh and Mr. Long identified the Huntington's Quarters spring house as an appropriately sized project for the volunteer effort. In preparation for re-painting, Jesse O'Hara and a helper from Eadeh Enterprises, cleaned and scraped all the wood doors and windows, re-mortared failing masonry joints, caulked where needed and prime-coated the Spring house. Unfortunately, it rained on National Public Lands Day and the final coat of paint could not be applied that day. Ernest made sure that the Spring house was completed later and sent a company crew to apply the final coat of paint and finished up on September 22.

The park is gratified to have such caring partners and remains committed to supporting these kinds of projects in the following years.

Volunteer Spotlight



Name: Bob Ballantyne

Age: 65

City/Town you live in: Gilbertsville, PA

Family: wife; 6 married children who live in Anchorage, Seattle, New Hampshire, Colorado, Ohio, and PA; 12 grandchildren

Occupation: Retired biology teacher

Special Interests/

Hobbies: Freelance outdoor writer and I've been going to Yellowstone National Park for the past 18 straight years for fly

fishing.

How long have you been a natural resource management volunteer at Valley Forge? About 4 years

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? In retirement keeping active is important, and volunteer work is one of many ways to do that. With my biology background some work in natural resources education seemed a logical way to do that.

What is the most interesting thing you have done in your life? I had a parallel career in the Marine Corps Reserves, from which I'm now retired. It included flight school.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try?

I'd like to go to Scotland and finish off the family genealogy there. My father came here in 1914 as a child. After retiring I did a lot of Genealogy on the family.

If you grew up in this area, what is one of your fondest

memories? I grew up in Philadelphia. I was here during the Boy Scout Jamborees in the 1950s. I remember kids from Texas and Arizona brought live lizards and horned toads with them. I remember when this area was totally rural with apple orchards and dairy farms.

People News

Congratulations to **Arthur L. Stewart**, Superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park, who will retire on January 3, 2005, after working 39 years and 6 months in the federal government. We wish him well in his new adventures!

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John and Lisa Waterman, both in the Protection Branch, are the proud new parents of their first child, Matthew, who was born on November 20, 2004 at 8:47 am. Matthew weighed in at 7 lbs., 15 oz., and measured 20 inches long. Congratulations!

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Welcome to **Michael (Mike) Caldwell** who was named Superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park, effective January 23, 2005. He is a 13-year career veteran of the NPS and comes from Fort Stanwix National Monument in NY.

Volunteer Statistics

A special thank you to all the volunteers who worked at Valley Forge National Historical Park during fiscal year 2004 (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004). See what you've accomplished!

Total VIP hours at Valley Forge NHP: 17,912

Total number of VIPS: 848

A very special thank you to these high-achievers who volunteered more than 200 hours during fiscal year 2004!

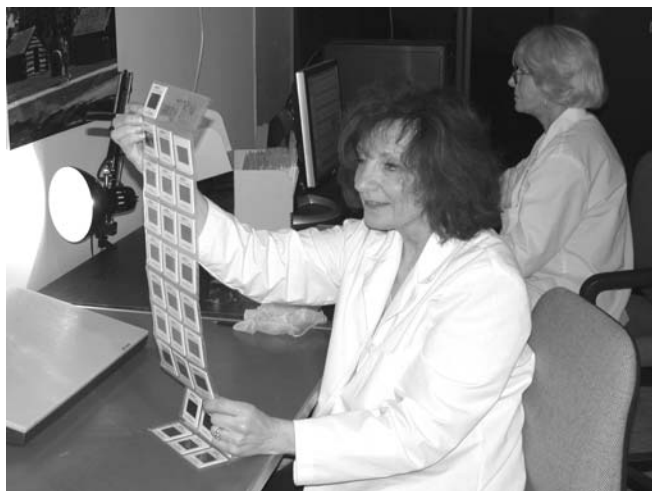
Bill Freilich

Sara Margavitch

Art Sattolo

Otto Jommersbach

Photo Archive Digitization Project



Connie Silverman and Barbara Wynn work on the digitizing project.

In January 2004 a new project was started to digitize the park's historic photographs and transfer them into a format compatible with the National Park Service's museum collections management system. The photographs will be easier to access and sort once they have been downloaded into this system. Through the tireless help of two outstanding women from RSVP of Chester County, Barbara Wynn and Connie Silverman, the project is well on its way to being completed.

A work area with photographic stands and computers is set up within the tent enclosure in the Welcome Center. The process begins with photographing each archival photograph using a 35mm camera. The film is then developed into slides which are digitally placed onto a CD-ROM. The finished slide is compared to the original photo and then marked with the corresponding catalog number. Upon completion, the photograph will be safer to access and view without handling the original. And the digital files will eventually be available on the web.

This project can still benefit by the help of more volunteers. If you would like to be a part of this exciting program please contact Ronald Boice, the park preservation specialist, at (610) 783-1079 for more information.



Each year on the third Monday of January schools, federal offices, post offices and banks across America close as we celebrate *the birth, the life and the dream* of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Join us in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King with a Holiday of Service. On **Monday, January 17, 2005**, Americans across the country will remember Dr. King and honor his memory by serving others – by making the holiday "A Day ON! Not a Day Off." Individuals, families, and groups will join in service projects at Valley Forge National Historical Park. **For more information call Michelle Ortwein at 610-783-1044.**

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"The Continental Chronicle" is a quarterly publication of Valley Forge National Historical Park.

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Volunteer Meetings

Mark your calendars! During each meeting in the Education Center we will discuss volunteer issues and a program will be offered related to Valley Forge.

Saturday, January 29, 2005, 10:00 am
Preparation for Greatness: Important but Little Known Adventure Stories of George Washington (Bill Troppman) - Hear what life experiences prepared Washington for his leadership at Valley Forge.

Saturday, March 5, 2005, 1:00 pm
Thompson, Thomas and Till: Women in Washington's Military Family (Ajena Rogers) - This program reveals insight into 18th century servitude, life during wartime, and even uncovers an unsolved mystery.

A Call to Service for all Valley Forge Volunteers!

Sunday, December 19, 2005

The 227th Anniversary of the Continental Army March-In will take place from 1 pm to 6 pm near the Welcome Center.

All volunteers are needed to participate in the program and to assist with this important operation.

Contact Bill Troppman – (610) 783-1075 or Bruce Stocking – (610) 783-1072 to offer your service to this call!

A note of caution, however: volunteer service in this operation may result in a good time (beware).

Sierra Club Outing Vacation

In October, a group of Sierra Club members from Utah, Florida, California, Delaware and Pennsylvania joined here at Valley Forge National Historical Park for one week on a Sierra Club Outing Volunteer Vacation.

The Sierra Club has over 100 years of wilderness travel experience and as a part of the largest grassroots organization in the country, the club offers over 350 service trips a year to unique destinations around the world in their effort to continue to make a difference.

Volunteers spent the week sharing their talent and energy assisting Valley Forge National Historical Park staff with environmental preservation projects such as trails stabilization, trail restoration, closing archeological excavation plots and protecting young trees from deer browsing. The members also had the opportunity to learn about the significance of Valley Forge natural, cultural and historical resources and visit other historical parks and sites in



Some Club members met with Arthur L. Stewart, Superintendent, during their volunteer vacation.

Pennsylvania.

If you are interested in learning more about Sierra Club Outing Vacations visit the Sierra Club website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/>.

Artifacts in Traveling Exhibit

Valley Forge NHP loaned 3 artifacts (a tin cup, cartridge box, and spontoon) to the Missouri Historical Society for the Lewis and Clark National Bicentennial Exhibition. The exhibit started in St. Louis and is now in Philadelphia at the Academy of Natural Sciences from

November 6, 2004 to March 20, 2005. Visit the Lewis and Clark exhibit in Philadelphia and see our collections in a different venue. There is an admission fee for it. The exhibit will then travel to Colorado, Oregon, and Washington, DC. For more information, visit www.acnatsci.org.